

Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture

Struve Labs produces pigs by the gold standard method for clean stock derivation. These CDCD (Caesarian Derived, Colostrum Deprived) pigs are born within a sterile bubble by Caesarian Section, then taken to a biosecure laboratory where they are raised without colostrum, or the mother's first milk. This means these pigs haven't been exposed to the bacteria and viruses that are present in the mother sow's body.

In the 1960's and 70's, this method was used to produce SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) pigs to start clean herds on farms. The SPF program was started by veterinarians to fill an agricultural need – clean pigs that could go to market faster and cheaper by eliminating profit robbing diseases.

In the recent past, CDCD pigs have been used primarily for FDA required safety and efficacy tests of vaccines used in US swine herds. These pigs are also used to study emerging swine diseases, since CDCD pigs are free of confounding factors which may skew the course of a disease entity.

While swine vaccine trials remain the core of the present business, Struve Labs has begun producing antibodies for use in treating human diseases. Work has also been done on the development of transgenic pigs which carry enough human genes to allow the use of pig organs to replace human organs. This has huge implications in the treatment of human maladies such as Type II diabetes, heart, liver, and kidney failure, and burn wounds, to name a few.

Future plans for Struve Labs include raising small numbers of these unique pigs in specialized units on family farms in close proximity to a central surgical facility. From these animals, this hospital will harvest organs which will then be flown to transplant centers all over the US. The need for educated, high level positions such as surgeons and technicians will profoundly affect the local area and its economy. Sioux Center has seen the same effect with the progression of Trans Ova.

Struve Labs began as Merrick Labs in Manilla, Iowa and has expanded throughout the last 45 years. It provides jobs and opportunities for local people to work and improve their skills and wages. It has progressed to an entirely different business now, with global impact and possibilities. This is a boon to rural Western Iowa.

Any legislation that can help producer entrepreneurs to improve their businesses in rural America will be welcomed and appreciated. The term 'producer' may include businesses like Struve Labs that are using crops and livestock previously considered commodities, to improve the health and well being of humankind and to provide improved livelihoods in rural Iowa and America.

Big ideas don't always come from big companies. With the challenges, opportunities, and possibilities coming with xenotransplantation and human antibody production, anything that can be done to encourage the growth of small companies in rural communities will help.

The evolution of Struve Labs and businesses like it which will help the human and animal populations need room to expand and grow. An environment which is friendly to new ideas and businesses is imperative.

Thank you very much for your time and your attention.

Rexanne Struve, DVM

**Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Required Witness Disclosure Form**

House Rules* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2004.

Name: Dr. Rexanne Struve

Address: 30704 Falcon Ave, Manning, IA 51455

Telephone: 712-653-2437 or 712-653-2607

Organization you represent (if any): _____

Struve Labs, Inc.

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do **NOT** require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you: X

Signature: _____

** Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.*

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.